THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI. MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a): No, Sir.

(b) to (d): Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of Licensed Post Offices in Urban Areas

6802. SHRI. DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a). whether the Government have approved a scheme to set up licensed post offices in Urban and Semi-Urban areas;

(b). whether the Government have modified the policy in this regard; and

(c). if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI. RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c): No, Sir. However, a scheme of Licensed Postal Agents was introduced in August 1985 with the objective of reducing operational expenditure in urban areas, introducing an element of competition in running of the post offices and providing basic needs namely availability of stamps and stationery and despatch of mails at points where post offices do not exist. At present the number of Licensed Postal Agents functioning in the country is about 200. No final view has been taken as yet in regard to modification or discontinuance of Licensed Postal Agency Scheme.

[*English*]

Royalty Collected from Mining Companies of Goa

6803. SHRI. HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the royalty on iron ore collected from the various mining companies in Goa during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the amount of royalty collected from the top five iron export companies in Goa during the above period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Alleged Irregularities in HAU, Hissar

6804. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a). whether several cases of irregularities in Haryana Agricultural University, Hissar have been brought to the notice of the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI. K.C. LENKA): (a): No sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Telephone Connections at Goriyar Kothi and Siwan in Bihar

6805. SHRI. SURYA NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections at Goriya Kothi and Siwan in Bihar; and

(b) the steps taken to provide telephone connections to all the applicants?